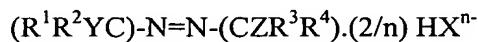


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) Polymerisation initiator system, comprising a water-soluble container and a water-soluble azo-initiator inside the container.
2. (Original) Polymerisation initiator package according to claim 1, wherein the water-soluble container is a bag.
3. (Currently Amended) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the container is made of a water-soluble polymer.
4. (Original) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 3, wherein the water-soluble polymer is a water-soluble cellulosic polymer or polyvinylalcohol.
5. (Currently Amended) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the container is an extruded container.
6. (Currently Amended) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein the azo-initiator is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the formula



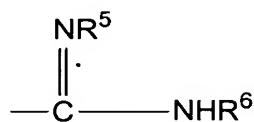
Formula I

wherein

$R^1, R^2, R^3$  and  $R^4$  each represent the same or a different alkyl group or cycloalkyl

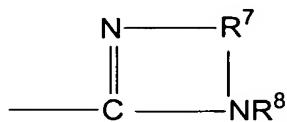
group

Y and Z each represent the same or a different group represented by the formula



Formula II

or



Formula III

$\text{R}^5$  is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl, allyl or phenyl group

$\text{R}^6$  is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl or phenyl group

$\text{R}^7$  is an optionally substituted alkylene group

$\text{R}^8$  is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyalkyl group

X is a anion, wherein n represents its valence, and X is preferably a monovalent anion, more preferably chloride, bromide or acetate.

7. (Original) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 6, wherein the azo-initiator is 2,2'-Azobis(2-amidinopropane), 2,2'-azobis[2-(2-imidazolin-2-yl)propane] or a salt thereof

8. (Currently Amended) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of azo-initiator in the container

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is in the range of 1 g to 25 kg, preferably of 100 to 10 kg.

9. (Currently Amended) Polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein the container comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of anti-foaming agents and diluent materials.

10. (Original) Method of polymerisation, comprising adding a container comprising an initiator to a polymerisation system and dissolving the initiator and container in the polymerisation system.

11. (Original) Method according to claim 10, wherein the polymerisation system is an emulsion polymerisation system or a solution polymerisation system.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the polymerisation system is an aqueous polymerisation system.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 10 any one of the claims 10-12, wherein the polymerisation system comprises at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, acryl amide, acrylesters (e.g. ethyl acrylate), vinyl acetate, acetonitrile and styrene, preferably from the group consisting of acrylic acid and acryl amide.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 10 any one of the claims 10-13, wherein the container and initiator are added in the form of a polymerisation initiator system comprising a water-soluble container and a water-soluble azo-initiator inside the container as defined in any one of the claims 1-9.

15. (Currently Amended) Method for preparing a polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1 any one of the claim 1-9, wherein the water-soluble azo-initiator is introduced into the water-soluble container, after which the container is sealed.

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16. (Currently Amended) Method for handling a polymerisation initiator system according to claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-9~~, wherein the system is transferred from a polymerisation initiator system manufacturing site to a polymer production site and integrally introduced into a polymerisation reactor.